

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 060919

44

ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 FILE-01 SSO-00 ADP-00 /018 R

66603

DRAFTED BY: S/ S- O: JMCGUNNIGLE

APPROVED BY : S/ S- O: RWRIGHT

----- 093881

O 031503 Z APR 73 ZFF6

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL SAN CLEMENTE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 060919

TOSEC 99

WHITE HOUSE PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY ROGERS IN SAN
CLEMENTE

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO CINCPAC JEC PARIS OTTAWA
BUDAPEST JAKARTA WARSAW FROM SAIGON APR 3

QUOTE

S E C R E T SAIGON 05508

EO: 11652 GDS

TAGS/ PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: GVN GREATLY CONCERNED AT COMMUNIST EFFORT TO CAPTURE
TONLE CHAM

CINCHHAC FOR POLAD

REF: (A) CH USDEL FPJMC 171300 Z MAR 73 (NOTAL)

(B) SAIGON 4668 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: GVN CONTINUING TO EXPRESS SERIOUS CONCERN OVER
COMMUNIST ATTACKS ON GVN GARRISON AT TONLE CHAM ON UPPER SAIGON
RIVER. MATTER BEING RAISED AT TWO- PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION
APRIL 3 AS WELL AS IN BILATERAL PRG- GBN MEETING IN PARIS. GVN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 060919

FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ISSUED PRESS STATEMENT DENOUNCING COMMUNIST ATTACKS. COMMUNIST ASSAULT BEING BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF 12 SIGNATORIES OF PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIET- NAM. IF COMMUNIST ATTACKS CONTINUE, GVN MAY FEEL COMPELLED TO LAUNCH COUNTER-ATTACK WHICH COULD LEAD TO MAJOR BATTLE.

1. SAIGON POST AND VIETNAMESE LANGUAGE PRESS APRIL 3 HAVE CARRIED EXTENDED SUMMARY OF PRESS BRIEFING APRIL 2 BY SAIGON COMMAND SPOKESMAN, LTC HIEN. AMONG OTHER MATTERS HIEN SAID GVN HAS MADE CLEAR IN MEETING OF TWO- PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION THAT IF COMMUNIST ATTACKS CONTINUE ON TONLE CHAM (15 KM SW OF AN LOC ON UPPER REACHES OF SAIGON RIVER IN TAY NINH PROVINCE) AND IF COMMUNISTS DO NOT AGREE TO EVACUATION OF KILLED AND WOUNDED FROM OUTPOST, GVN WILL NOT RPT NOT ATTEND ANY FURTHER TPJMC SESSIONS.

2. HIEN, AS HE HAS DONE ON NUMBERMF OCCASIONS IN PAST, UBT MATTER MORE STARKLY THAN JUSTIFIED. TPJMC MEETING TO WHICH HE REFERRED WAS SUBCOMMISSION SESSION HELD ON MAR 31. HOWEVER, THOUGH COMMUNIST ATTACKS ON TONLE CHAM ARE CONTINUING, MEETING OF TPJMC CHIEFS IS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF MORNING OF APRIL 3, LTG DANG VAN QUANG (MILITARY AND SECURITY ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT THIEU) STATED THAT CHIEFS MEETING WOULD BE HELD AND THAT GVN CHIEF DELEGATE, LTG PHAM QUOC THUAN, WOULD RAISE TONLE CHAM ISSUE AS FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS. (EMBOFF SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH THUAN APRIL 4, AT WHICH WE WILL EXPLORE GVN INTENTIONS ON HANDLING OF MATTER IN TPJMC.)

3. AT APRIL 3 PRESS BRIEFING IN VIETNAMESE, FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, READ MINISTRY STATEMENT ON TONLE CHAM, COPIES OF WHICH WERE DISTRIBUTED TO PRESS (TEXT BEING SENT BY SEPTEL). HE ALSO VOLUNTEERED SOME ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND ANSWERED QUESTIONS. MAIN POINTS AS FOLLOWS.

A. SPOKESMAN SAID GVN IS TAKING ALL ACTION AVAILABLE TO IT TO SECURE EFFECTIVE ACTION ON TONLE CHAM. HE ANNOUNCED THAT MATTER WOULD BE FORMALLY RAISED IN TODAY' S SESSION OF RVN- PRG BELATERAL TALKS IN PARIS AND THAT GVN CONCERN WOULD BE BROUGHT FORMALLY TO ATTENTION OF 12 SIGNATORIES OF PARIS CONFERENCE. HE COMMENTED ON FAILURE OF ICCS THUS FAR TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION, DESPITE REPEATED APPROACHES BY GVN. AS NOTED IN STATEMENT ITSELF, SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT " CERTAIN MEMBERS" OF ICCS KNEW PERFECTLY SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 060919

WELL SERIOUSNESS OF THE VIOLATIONS (PRESUMED REFERENCE TO
CANADIANS
AND INDONESIANS). VIETNAMESE PRESS APRIL 3 CARRIES PICTURES OF
CANADIAN ICCS PERSONNEL VISITING RACH BAP.

B. SPOKESMAN WAS ASKED TO ELABORATE ON WHAT STEPS MIGHT BE
TAKEN BY GVN CONCERNING TONLE CHAM, BUT HE DECLINED TO DO SO
WHILE STRESSING THAT COMMUNISTS MUST BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR
WHATEVER ENSUED.

4. COMMENT: GVN REGARDS CONTINUING ATTACKS ON TONLE CHAM A
SERIOUS CHALLENGE AND A MATTER OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. AS REPORTED
IN REF A, GVN CALLED URGENT MEETING OF CHIEFS OF FOUR- PARTY
JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION ON MARCH 17 TO PROTEST LARGE- SCALE
COMMUNIST ATTACKS ON TONLE CHAM AND RACH BAP, IN VIOLATION OF
CEASEFIRE. GVN, HAVING FAILED AT MARCH 17 CHIEFS MEETING TO GET
JMC INVESTIGATION OF ATTACKS, REQUESTED ICCS TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATIO.
US DELEGATION, IN LETTER OF MARCH 18, ALSO ASKED ICCS
TO CONDUCT INQUIRY INTO VIOLATION OF CEASEFIRE AT TONLE CHAMA ND
RACH BAP. ICCS PLENARY MARCH 19 DECISED IN PRINCIPLE TO
CONDUCT INVESTIGATION, BUT ACTION THWARTED BY POLISH AND
HUNGARIAN REFUSALS TO CO
E E E E E E E

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE060919
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: JMCGUNNIGLE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730432/aaaahncr.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 13 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Sep-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <16-Nov-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971120
Subject: GVN GREATLY CONCERNED AT COMMUNIST EFFORT TO CAPTURE TONLE CHAM
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, VS, MILI, PINT
To: N/A
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005